



# POLICY

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Housing Laboratory Animals Outside Vivarium</b>
<b>Policy Number:</b>	2014-009
<b>Responsible Department:</b>	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
<b>Policy Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:IACUCOffice@westernu.edu">IACUCOffice@westernu.edu</a>
<b>Approval Date:</b>	7/9/14
<b>Reviewed:</b>	5/10/17; 2/12/2020 (No changes)
<b>Revised:</b>	5/10/17 (document training for research staff providing daily husbandry)
<b>Legislation:</b>	Animal Welfare Act (Title 9 CFR Subchapter A, Part 1, § 1.1)

**Purpose of Policy:** To establish the requirements for the proper housing of laboratory animals outside of the vivarium.

**Policy Information:** [Public Health Service \(PHS\) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#), Sections IV.1 and 2. and B.1. and 2., requires that the current edition of the [Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals](#) serve as a basis for developing and implementing an institutional program for activities involving animals and that the institution’s programs and facilities (including satellite facilities) for activities involving animals be evaluated by the IACUC and reevaluated by the IACUC at least once every six months.

PHS Policy, Section III, defines an animal facility as “Any and all buildings, rooms, areas, enclosures or vehicles, including satellite facilities, used for animal confinement, transport, maintenance, breeding or experiments inclusive of surgical manipulation.” A satellite facility is defined as “any containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 24 hours.” The [Animal Welfare Act](#) defines a study area as “any building room, area, enclosure or other containment outside of a core facility or centrally designated or managed area in which animals are housed for more than 12 hours”.

Chapter 2 of the *Guide* cited above reiterates the requirement that all animal care and use facilities, including sites used for animal surgeries, be inspected by the IACUC at least every 6 months.

**Policy:** Housing United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-covered animals outside a dedicated vivarium, i.e. in any satellite facility or study area as defined above, for more than 12 hours must be scientifically or medically justified and approved by the IACUC. Housing of non-USDA-covered animals outside a dedicated vivarium, i.e. in any satellite facility or study area as defined above, for more than 24 hours must be scientifically or medically justified and approved by the IACUC. Convenience is not an acceptable justification. All details pertaining to husbandry and the suitability of the housing location must be provided in an approved animal use protocol.

If the housing of a laboratory animal is approved by the IACUC, the following requirements will be in effect:

- The facility must be inspected and approved by the IACUC prior to housing animals and at least once every 6 months as part of the IACUC's semiannual inspection of facilities.
- The Attending Veterinarian must have ready access to the housing area to evaluate animal health and well-being.
- The facility must provide adequate ventilation and temperature regulation.
- If housed for more than 12 hours, a light:dark cycle appropriate to the species must be maintained.
- Unnecessary noise in the housing area should be kept to a minimum.
- If animal facility staff are not providing daily husbandry, the research laboratory staff must be trained in husbandry practices appropriate for the species and their training must be documented.
- There must be proper provision and storage of food, water and bedding material.
- Animals must be observed daily, including weekends and holidays, for signs of illness.
- The Attending Veterinarian must be notified of any signs of animal illness.
- Waste management procedures, including for potentially hazardous materials, must be established and followed.
- Up to date records of animal care, room maintenance and environmental conditions must be kept and posted in the housing area.